

# News from Ed Markey

**United States Congress**  
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## **MARKEY, MAJORITY OF HOUSE DEMOCRATS URGE PROTECTION OF ARCTIC REFUGE**

**Lawmaker: Road to Energy Independence Does Not Run Through ANWR**

**Washington, D.C.:** Today the majority of House Democrats, including Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Resources Committee, sent a letter to the energy bill conferees urging them to exclude any language from the final legislation that would allow oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The letter, signed by 110 Democratic Members of Congress, argues that the nation would gain only a little more oil, if any, but would lose the finest intact wilderness ecosystem left in America.

"The road to energy independence does not run through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," said Rep. Markey. "The Senate did not include drilling in ANWR as part of their national energy plan. This letter is a reminder to conferees that there was very significant House opposition to drilling in the Refuge and that the majority of American people support preserving the Refuge, not pillaging it."

"If we allow the oil industry to lay claim to public treasures such as the Arctic Refuge, we will have failed twice – we will remain just as dependent on oil for our energy future, and we will have hastened the demise of the ancient rhythms of the last migratory caribou herd in America," said Rep. Markey.

The letter gives four main reasons for excluding language that would allow development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:

1. Drilling in ANWR has lost public support from the majority of Americans;
2. Drilling in ANWR sets a precedent that industry will use to invade every other National Wildlife Refuge that might have some oil or gas in it;
3. Drilling in ANWR leaves oil imports virtually undented; and
4. Drilling in ANWR would kill the entire Energy bill.

"Tapping the Arctic will not make us independent of foreign sources of oil. To become energy independent, we should tap American ingenuity to make more efficient buildings and vehicles and design new renewable technologies that our domestic resources can fuel cleanly," concluded Rep. Markey.

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